

RECORDKEEPING RECOMMENDATIONS

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The importance of keeping accurate, detailed records on all aspects of orangutan husbandry is extremely valuable. Thorough records can provide caregivers, curators, veterinary staff, researches, captive management groups, and governmental bodies a historical knowledge that they can utilize in many ways. Although recording complex events like introductions, medical procedures and training is important; it is just as significant to keep consistent records of such basic things as weight, stool consistency and food preferences. Together they lend a greater effect to the overall knowledge the individual animal.

There are several methods of record keeping available to most institutions today. These include paper and computerized forms, databases, digital photography and video. All of these methods allow for a very comprehensive and usable historical reference for each individual animal. There are many situations that using video recording can be very effective, such as introductions, medical procedures and births. Events can be viewed in real time and at a later time when they can be fully interpreted. More and more institutions and management groups are compiling video libraries from which can be access by other members.

Most AZA institutions use ARKS (Animal Records Keeping System), MEDARKS (Medical Animal Record Keeping System) and SPARKS (Single Population Analysis Record Keeping System) to record and organize their animal information. The most recent version of ARKS allows for more extensive entry and utilization of husbandry and behavior comments. This systematic record of husbandry and behavior is invaluable to the captive management of all species. Detailed records allow institutions to better manage their animals when planning births, introductions, behavioral enrichment and training programs.

Keeping accurate records avoids having genetically valuable animals kept in inappropriate or non-breeding situations. Accurate records have been extremely helpful when an animal is sent to another institution. It can ease the transition of a move for an animal by allowing the receiving institution to review a detailed history of the animal prior to the transfer. Any necessary changes in husbandry routine can be made before the animal arrives at the institution.

Following are examples of data forms used by various institutions to record behavioral and husbandry information. The infant development (Appendix I) and shipping survey (Appendix II) forms are also available through the Husbandry Advisor, Carol Sodaro casdoaro@brookfieldzoo.org. Animal Data Transfer, Enrichment and Training forms are available through the Animal Keepers Forum.

APPENDIX I

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

Date_____ Institution_____

Infant Name_____ Studbook #_____

ISIS #_____ Sex_____ Date of Birth_____

Time of Birth_____ Location of Birth_____

Bornean_____ Sumatran_____ Hybrid_____

Dam Name_____ Dam ISIS #_____ Dam Studbook #_____

Sire Name_____ Sire ISIS #_____ Sire Studbook #_____

Names, Sex, Studbook #'s of other animals present for birth _____

Were the above listed animals housed with the dam after

birth?_____ If not, why?_____

When were they re-introduced to the dam and infant?_____

Description of labor, birth and post-partum behavior_____

Did Dam ingest the placenta?_____

Time of first nursing_____ Length of first nursing_____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

Group Composition:

Sex/Name	Studbook #	Age/Relationship to Infant (m/d/y)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

	Date 1st Observed	Age	Location	I.D. Partner
PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR				

Foraging

Attempts to touch food _____

Describe _____

Mouths food _____

Describe _____

Ingests food _____

Describe _____

Drinks water _____

Describe _____

Food share solicit _____

Describe _____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR

	Date 1st Observed	Age	Location	I.D. Partner
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Locomotion

Changes position on dam	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Horizontal surface(assisted)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Horizontal surface(unassisted)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Vertical surface(assisted)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Vertical surface(unassisted)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Brachiates	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Bipedal standing	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Bipedal walking	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

Object Manipulation

Tactile manipulation	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Describe _____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR	Date 1st Observed	Age	Location	I.D. Partner
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Object Manipulation

Oral manipulation	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Sociosexual Behaviors

Infant mounted by Dam	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Genital touch/inspect by Dam	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Genital oral/inspect by Others	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Self genital manipulation	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Social Development

Independence from Dam Out of contact	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Out of reach	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Greater than 2 meters	_____	___	_____	_____
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Describe_____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR	Date 1st Observed	Age	Location	I.D. Partner
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Carried by animal other than Dam	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Infant independently shifts from cage to cage(or exhibit)	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Nest builds	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Head covers	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Tool use	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Vocalizations

Kiss squeak	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Submissive whimper	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Fear cry	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR	Date 1st Observed	Age	Location	I.D. Partner
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Interactions with others

Contact - other initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Contact - infant initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Grooming - other initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Grooming - infant initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Play - other initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Play - infant initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Interactions with others

Aggression - towards infant	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

Aggression - infant initiates	_____	____	_____	_____
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Describe_____

ORANGUTAN INFANT DEVELOPMENT SHEET

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT/BEHAVIOR Date 1st _____ I.D. _____
Observed _____ Age _____ Location _____ Partner _____

Submission - by other _____

Describe _____

Submission - by infant _____

Describe _____

Additional observations/comments

Names/Titles of staff members who participated in this project:

Date _____

APPENDIX II

Orangutan SSP© Animal Transfer Survey

Animal I.D. Information

Name/Studbook# of Animal Being Moved:

Sending Institution:

Receiving Institution:

Date of Transfer:

Sending Institution Information:

How long was this animal at your institution prior to this shipment?

What was it's social grouping at time of shipment?

How long prior to shipment was the animal removed from its social group?

What was the method was used to crate the animal?

Was any husbandry information exchanged about the animal prior to shipment

Did you send the animals APES profiles to the receiving institution prior to shipment?

Did keeper staff from the receiving institution visit your institution prior to shipment?

Please describe any management routines you implemented to prepare the animal for transfer:

If yes:

Did you send keeper staff (familiar with the animal) with the shipment?

If yes, how long did they remain at the receiving institution?

Receiving Institution/ Keeper:

If you were able to visit the animal prior to shipment:

Time length of visit?

How long prior to the shipment did they visit?

Time length of visit:

Did the visiting keeper observe the animal in its daily routine?

Did the visiting keeper interact with the animal in any way? Please describe

Name _____

Title _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

If you have any questions about this survey, please the SSP© Husbandry Advisor,
Carol Sodaro, at casodaro@brookfieldzoo.org.